

## EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

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### WORK SUMMARY

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) works on behalf of the Episcopal Church to provide emergency relief in times of crises, rebuild devastated communities after disasters, and support long-term solutions to challenging problems. For 62 years, ERD has served people in more than 100 countries.

In the past three years, ERD has helped individuals, families, and communities in the following ways:

#### **ERD Provided Emergency Relief**

ERD responded to natural disasters, war, civil unrest, and other catastrophes that shattered lives, destroyed property, and tore apart communities and families. ERD supplied food, water, shelter, and other basic necessities in the immediate aftermath of crises.

During 2000 to 2002, ERD assisted more than 75 communities around the world affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, typhoons, drought, famine, and fires. ERD was there to help when devastating earthquakes killed thousands and caused unprecedented damage in Turkey, El Salvador, India, and Afghanistan. When fierce Caribbean hurricanes struck Belize two years in a row, ERD was there to provide immediate assistance. ERD supplied desperately needed food to victims of famine in Malawi.

ERD also reached people suffering because of man-made disasters. ERD provided emergency assistance to dioceses in several areas facing civil unrest, such as Liberia, Colombia, Burundi, and the Middle East. We provided care to refugees fleeing war in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, and Sudan.

ERD responded immediately to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, with support for rescue and recovery workers at Ground Zero. We gave emergency assistance to victims' families and unemployed survivors, including financial support, grief and trauma counseling, and job training.

#### **ERD Helped Rebuild After Disasters**

Natural disasters or wars often destroy entire communities, leaving people without homes, schools, churches, or medical facilities. Disasters can ruin crops, kill livestock, and shut down businesses, making families economically vulnerable.

During 2000 to 2002, ERD helped rebuild several disaster-devastated communities across the globe. ERD constructed the *Faith, Hope, and Joy* community in San Pedro Sula, Honduras after several areas in the country were destroyed by Hurricane Mitch. The new community includes 200 homes, a school, church, community center, and medical clinic. ERD also completed 109 new houses for families who lost their homes in Turkey's massive earthquake of 1999.

ERD rebuilt 122 small shops in Gjakove, in war-torn Kosovo, so that merchants could get back on their feet. ERD also helped 90 small business owners rebuild their shops destroyed in the Mesa Redonda fire in Lima, Peru.

ERD launched two major reconstruction projects that will continue for the next few years. In El Salvador, ERD is partnering with the Diocese of El Salvador and Fundación Cristosal, a non-profit Episcopal agency. Along with the diocese and Cristosal, ERD is constructing homes as well as a medical clinic, school, and church in four villages affected by the earthquakes of 2001. After hurricanes in Belize, ERD is also rebuilding houses, schools, and church and community properties in two communities hit by Hurricanes Keith and Iris.

### **ERD Developed Long-term Solutions to Challenging Problems**

ERD continued its work with churches and partner organizations to find long-term solutions that make lives safer, healthier, and more fulfilling in communities both here in the U.S. and around the world.

Continuing to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS, ERD launched a new partnership to bring much-needed HIV/AIDS education to four Anglican seminaries in some of the hardest-hit countries in Africa. ERD is providing HIV/AIDS education and care for people affected by the disease in areas such as South Africa, the United States, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Haiti, and Brazil.

ERD helped struggling communities become economically self-sufficient. In Uganda, ERD supported community-based development projects to help farmers move into the economic mainstream. In Honduras, El Salvador, and Belize, ERD began micro-credit and agricultural development programs so that people affected by disasters can regain economic security.

ERD provided educational opportunities so that people can thrive. In partnership with the Diocese of Haiti, ERD developed plans and curricula for the Episcopal Business and Technology Institute that will train young people in Les Cayes for good-paying jobs. ERD worked with the Church of Bangladesh to improve primary schools and enable disabled children to attend school. ERD supported after-school enrichment programs for children in low-income communities around the United States, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for newly arrived immigrants.

ERD worked with the Diocese of Liberia to rebuild several war-ravaged elementary and high schools in Liberia. ERD has also supported Cuttington University College by rebuilding damaged campus buildings and restoring services. Along with a number of partners, ERD also restored electricity to Cuttington and installed a generator to supply power to the student dormitories, classrooms, and staff and faculty houses.

As part of a multi-faceted and long-term response to September 11, 2001, ERD launched the Interfaith Education Initiative (IEI) in partnership with the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of the ECUSA. IEI will provide resources and training to help Episcopalians build positive relationships among religious groups in communities across the United States.

From 2000 to 2002, ERD provided \$26.6 million for crisis relief, rehabilitation, and long-term development assistance for people in need across the world.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNIUM**

Episcopal Relief and Development will continue to increase its capacity to assist the Anglican Communion in meeting the needs of people worldwide by providing emergency assistance in times of natural or human-made disasters; helping communities rebuild after the immediate crisis is over; and offering opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to strive for self-sufficiency.